

Handout #5 - Management Zone Implementation Plan Requirements

Highlights of Management Zone Implementation Plan (MZIP) Requirements

Address how:

- Safe drinking water supply is assured;
- Balanced nitrate loadings will be achieved (to the extent reasonable, feasible and practicable); and
- Nitrate levels in groundwater will be restored to concentrations at or below water quality objectives (to the extent reasonable, feasible and practicable)

Identify or Include:

- Funding or cost share agreements or process to establish such agreements to implement Plan;
- Nitrate management activities (may be prioritized);
- Water quality characterization to be used as a basis for measuring progress;
- Short (≤ 20 years) and long-term (> 20 years) projects and/or planning activities to be implemented;
- Implementation schedule with interim milestones;
- Triggers for implementation of alternative procedures if interim milestones unmet;
- Surveillance and monitoring program; and
- Responsibilities of each discharger, or groups of dischargers to manage nitrate.

Specific Management Zone Implementation Plan Regulatory Requirements (Basin Plan Amendment)

A Management Zone Implementation Plan is the equivalent of an Alternative Compliance Project.

Management Zone Implementation Plans shall:

- i. Identify how emergency, interim and permanent drinking water needs for those affected by nitrates in the Management Zone area are being addressed, and how a drinking water supply that ultimately meets drinking water standards will be available to all drinking water users within the Management Zone boundary, and the timeline and milestones necessary for addressing such drinking water needs;
- ii. Show how the Management Zone plans to achieve balanced nitrate loadings within the management zone (to the extent reasonable, feasible and practicable);
- iii. Include a plan for establishing a managed aquifer restoration program to restore nitrate levels to concentrations at or below the water quality objectives to the extent it is reasonable, feasible and practicable to do so;
- iv. Document collaboration with the community and/or users benefitting from any proposed short/long-term activities to provide safe drinking water;
- v. Identify funding or cost-share agreements, or a process for developing such funding or cost-share agreements, to implement intermediate and long-term nitrate management projects/activities, which may include identification of local, state and federal funds that are available for such purposes;
- vi. Identify nitrate management activities within a Management Zone which may be prioritized based on factors identified in the Central Valley SNMP (2016) and the results of the characterization of nitrate conditions. Prioritization provides the basis for allocating resources with resources directed to the highest water quality priorities first;

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- vii. Include a water quality characterization and identification of nitrate management measures that contains:
- Characterization of nitrate conditions within the proposed management zone, which will be used as the basis for demonstrating how nitrate will be managed within the Management Zone over short and long-term periods to meet the management goals established in the Central Valley Region SNMP.
 - Short (≤ 20 years) and long-term (> 20 years) projects and/or planning activities that will be implemented within the Management Zone, and in particular within prioritized areas (if such areas are identified in the Implementation Plan) to make progress towards attaining each of the management goals identified by the Nitrate Control Program. Over time as water quality is managed in prioritized areas, updates to the plan may shift the priorities in the Management Zone.
 - Milestones related to achieving balanced nitrate loadings and managed aquifer restoration.
 - A short and long-term schedule for implementation of nitrate management activities with interim milestones.
 - Identification of triggers for the implementation of alternative procedures or measures to be implemented if the interim milestones are not met.
 - A water quality surveillance and monitoring program that is adequate to ensure that the plan when implemented is achieving the expected progress towards attainment of management goals. All or parts of the surveillance and monitoring program may be coordinated or be part of a valley-wide and/or regional groundwater monitoring, if appropriate.
 - Consideration of areas outside of the Management Zone that may be impacted by discharges that occur within the Management Zone boundary areas.
- viii. Identify the responsibilities of each regulated discharger, or groups of regulated dischargers participating in the Management Zone, to manage nitrate within the Zone.
- ix. Include information necessary for obtaining an Exception as set forth in the Exceptions Policy, or information necessary for the Central Valley Water Board to grant use of assimilative capacity for Management Zones.